

Library

ORRELL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

INCORPORATING THE REPORT OF THE

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1958

URBAN DISTRICT OF ORRELL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR 1958

Councillor H. FAIRHURST, J.P. (Chairman).

Councillor W. DARBYSHIRE (Vice-Chairman).

Councillors D. BENNETT, J.P., R. CHEETHAM, A. A. HESKETH,
W. C. LOVE, G. H. NICKEAS, T. PARKINSON, S. PRESTON,
J. A. SIMPKIN, J.P., MRS. A. TABERNER, J. W. WARD.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Councillor W. DARBYSHIRE (Chairman), and all members of the
Council.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health : G. H. POTTER, M.B., Ch.B., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector : W. COUPE, C.R.S.I., M.A.P.H.I.
Certified Inspector of Meat and Food.

Clerk : Mrs. D. R. E. MOLYNEUX.

Tel. : Wigan 82603.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
COUNCIL OFFICES,
ORRELL.

August, 1959.

To the Chairman and Members of the Orrell Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Health of Orrell for the year 1958. It has been compiled, as in previous years, in the manner recommended by the Ministry of Health.

I wish to thank the members of the Health and Sanitary Committee for the courtesy and consideration which they have always displayed towards me. I would also like to express my thanks to the Officials of the Council and especially to your Public Health Inspector, Mr. W. Coupe, for valuable help and co-operation received through the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

G. H. POTTER,

Medical Officer of Health.

1.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,617
Population (Preliminary Census) 1951	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,317
Registrar-General's estimate of Resident Population (Mid-1958)	...	...	...	...	...	...	10,140
Number of Inhabited Houses :							
(a) Census 1931	...	...	...	...	...	...	1,682
(b) End of 1957 according to Rate Books	...	...	...	...	...	...	3,346
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	90,690
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	£400	3s. 2d.

The area is developing with a number of industrial projects in hand and private enterprise building large number of medium priced dwellings.

The new Heinz Food Factory promises to provide employment for many local residents as well as for Wigan and district.

Provision is being made for further schools, some for general needs and others for denominational requirements.

The district is an example of sensible planning and growth. The Council's six year plan for clearance of its slums is not complicated by a gross overcrowding problem. The low density figure of three persons per house reflects the comparatively easy nature of the housing problem.

VITAL STATISTICS.

						Total.	M.	F.
Live Births	}	Legitimate	...	...		141	88	65
		Illegitimate	...	...		-	1	-
						142	89	53
Still Births			...	...	...	3	2	-
			...	...		3	2	-
						3	2	-
Death of Infants under one year of age	}	Legitimate .				2	1	1
		Illegitimate.				-	-	-
						2	1	1
Total No. of Deaths			...	...	...	135	72	83
<hr/>								
Adjusted Birth rate per 1,000 of the estimated population...								14.0
Birth rate for England and Wales								16.4
Adjusted Death rate per 1,000 of the estimated population.								15.3
Death rate for England and Wales								11.7
Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births								34.0

The following is a statement showing comparative statistics for the years 1954-58.

ORRELL U.D.		Live Births		Deaths (all causes)		Stillbirths		Maternal Mortality		Infant Mortality			
		No. regis- tered	Rate per 1000 popu- lation	No. regis- tered	Rate per 1000 popu- lation	No. of regis- tered	Rate per 1000 total births	Total		Neo-natal.			
								No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1000 live births	No. of deaths regis- tered	Rate per 1000 live births		
Year 1958	...	142	14.0	135	13.3	1	34.0	Nil	Nil	2	14.1	Nil	-
Year 1957	...	161	15.5	84	10.5	1	37	Nil	Nil	2	13	1	7
Year 1956	...	110	10.2	114	12.3	6	51	Nil	Nil	3	27	6	55
Year 1955	...	119	12.6	103	11.7	5	40	Nil	Nil	4	34	5	25
Year 1954	...	127	13.5	103	11.7	8	59	1	7.41	4	31	4	31
Ave. 5 years 1954-58		132	13.2	108	11.9	4	44	0.2	1.5	3	24	3.2	24

Adjusted Live Birth-rate (comparability factor 1.01) ... 14.0 per 1,000
Death-rate (comparability factor 1.17) ... 15.3 per 1,000

The following table shows the chief causes of death and the number of deaths during 1958 compared with the figures for 1957 :—

TABLE II.

						1958	1957
Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	2
Tuberculosis, other ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Meningococcal infections ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Measles ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Infective and Parasitic diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	—
Cancer ...	...	...	...	...	...	29	19
Leukæmia and Aleukæmia ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2
Diabetes ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Vascular lesions of the nervous system ...	...	...	...	...	...	28	8
Coronary disease, Angina ...	...	...	...	...	...	21	16
Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	...	...	...	...	...	6	2
Other Heart Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	16	9
Other Circulatory Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Influenza ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	1
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	5	—
Bronchitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	7	4
Other Diseases of Respiratory System ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhœa ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Nephritis and Nephrosis ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
Hyperplasia of Prostate ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortions ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
Congenital Malformations ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1
Ill Defined Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	8	15
Accident, Suicide and other violent causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	5
Motor Accidents ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1
All other causes ...	...	...	...	...	...	—	—
						<hr/>	<hr/>
					Totals ...	135	88
						<hr/>	<hr/>

2.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Arrangements.—Bacteriological examinations are carried out by the Pathological Department of the Wigan Infirmary and the Public Health Laboratory, Monsall Hospital, Manchester. When the necessity arises the services of the County Analyst are utilised for Chemical Analysis.

Ambulance Services.—Infections, non-infections, accident and maternity cases are dealt with by the Motor Ambulances belonging to the Lancashire County Council stationed at the new Ambulance Station at Billinge.

The arrangements are adequate and satisfactory.

National Assistance Act, 1948.—No action was taken under section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948.

3.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.—The district continues to cope with the problems of sufficient water supply with the one elevated portion contracted out to Wigan Borough. Here a diminished head cannot meet the heavy weekend demand and insufficient water is available. Efforts are being made to step up this local deficiency.

The growth of the district is undoubtedly outrunning services in general and the need for more ample main services from bore hole to consumer becomes obvious. Fresh supplies are assured from the new bore hole at Dean Wood. New filtration and softening plant must follow as the raw supply has strong corrosive potentiality. With the new “Makerfield” Water Board now imminent, the local means and distribution matters will pass from purely local control, but local surveillance and representation will remain as a public health interest.

Bacteriological Samples.—Samples have been taken in seven instances, one from the bore hole revealed a sterile sample. Six were taken in the course of distribution. There was an uncorrected fault in the chlorination plant, which was remedied, after a non sterile sample had been reported.

A great deal of loss is sustained from defective service pipes and fittings although some improvement has been effected, since the wrapping of exposed pipes and protection from frost campaign was stated.

Occupiers of premises are now warned that they have a statutory responsibility to protect water services from damage by frost.

Sewerage and Drainage.—The risks of dangers to health from overloaded and inadequate sewers are very high, and the future development of the district will have some heavy problems in sewerage.

One small treatment plant was repaired and a source of pollution removed during the year, but the Abbey Lakes, Moor Road, City Road and Gathurst Road danger points remain.

The inadequacy of the reception arrangements at the point of connection to the Wigan main sewer are beyond dispute and the Council continue to pollute the River Douglas to a dangerous degree by the neglect to install suitable screens and an adequate connection to the Wigan main sewer.

The necessity to service the existing sewers in the flatter portions must be stressed and some form of scouring and flushing is required.

Sanitary Accommodation :

No. of Privy Middens in the district	...	...	9
„ Closets attached to Privy Middens	...	...	9
„ Pail Closets	...	...	1
„ Freshwater Closets	...	...	3,601
„ Waste Water Closets	...	...	Nil
„ Dry Ashpits	...	...	2
„ Moveable Ashbins	...	...	3,424
„ Houses on Water Carriage System	...	...	3,295

Sanitary Inspection :

No. of Premises Visited	...	...	820
„ Visits	...	...	2,321
Nuisances	...	...	287
Nuisances Abated	...	...	238
No. of Notices : (a) Informal	...	...	272
(b) Statutory	...	...	20
Legal Proceedings	...	...	Nil

The following inspections were carried out during the year under the provisions of the Public Health and Housing Acts :—

Housing (under Public Health and Housing Acts)	1,721
Sanitary Conveniences	... .. 22
Drainage	... .. 311
Accumulations	... .. 4
Keeping of Animals	... .. 5
Inns	... .. 8
Enquiries after Infectious Disease...	... .. 18
Refuse Collection	... .. 121
Refuse Disposal	... .. 82
Dirty and/or Verminous Premises	... .. 8
Tents, Vans, Sheds	... .. 8
Miscellaneous visits	... .. 29
Schools	... .. 12

Schools.—A great deal of work has been done to provide adequate sanitary and washing facilities at all the schools and most of the six schools within the district are completely satisfactory. Perhaps our worst feature in this connection is the backing up and flooding of one school playground from an over loaded sewer, which it is hoped will soon be remedied.

Most of the playgrounds are adequately paved.

The school staff and employees in the school meals service are taking an increasing interest in hygiene. The Divisional Executive have complied with all my wishes on points where improvements could be made and no case of infection or complaint arose from this source.

Offensive Trades.—There are no offensive trades within the district, although a great deal of nuisance arose from a small holding using intensive batteries of hens for egg production. The disposal of manure, risk of cross contamination via polluted water feed, lack of cleanliness and neglect of birds are features requiring attention in these installations.

Tents, etc.—Sporadic camping at the Heinz Site has reached a peak and it will now taper off as the numbers of men engaged find other employment. No formal camping is permitted within the district.

Swimming Baths, etc.—There are no facilities for swimming within the district.

Atmospheric Pollution.—One steam raising plant only remains to be surveyed.

Domestic smoke is the main source of pollution.

The implementation of the "Clean Air Act, 1956" will have little effect within our district as our problem is wind borne from the industrial areas on our flanks.

Common Lodging Houses.—There are no common lodging houses within the district.

Factories.—These are subject to inspection as occasion demands and the necessary representations made to owners occupiers. Most establishments have completely satisfactory toilets, etc.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 AND 1948.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to Health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers Prosecuted</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
(i) Factories under Local Authorities ...	14	39	4	—
(ii) Factories not in (1) under Local Authority ...	18	72	1	—
(iii) Other Premises ...	6	9	2	—
Total ...	38	120	7	—

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>		<i>Referred</i>		
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>Prosecu- tions</i>
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Want of cleanliness (S.I.) ...	6	6			
Inadequate Ventila- tion... ..	1	—			
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)—					
(a) Insufficient ...	5	5			
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	6	6			
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1			
Total ...	19	18			

Rodent Control.—Sewer : Test Baiting and Treatment.

Six monthly testing of sewers coupled with the necessary treatment of portions to be infested keep bulk infestation down. Only one area has a record of regular infestation and this is due to the presence of numerous underground culverts which cannot be traced where rodents can breed. The problem is complicated by numerous streams and the River Douglas carrying prolific colonies.

Dwellings are treated free under the direction of the Public Health Inspector by a part time Rodent Operator.

The treatment of business farm and other premises is done on a chargeable basis and regular inspection ensures a reasonable freedom from the depra-dations of Rats and Mice.

The following work of inspection and treatment was carried out during 1958 :—

	<i>Type of Property.</i>			
	<i>Non-Agricultural.</i>		<i>Agricultural.</i>	
	<i>Dwelling houses.</i>	<i>All other.</i>		
(a) No. of properties in district.	3,396	415	...	17
(b) No. of properties inspected .	345	66	...	16
(c) Total inspections carried out (including re-inspections) ...	488	93	...	28
(d) No. of properties inspected which were found to be in- fested by :				
Rats : major ...	—	3	...	2
minor ...	100	24	...	—
Mice : major ...	—	—	...	—
minor ...	3	5	...	—
(e) No. of infested properties treated ...	103	32	...	4
(f) Total treatments carried out (including re-treatments) ...	118	41	...	—
(g) No. of “ Block ” control schemes carried out ...	—	—	...	—
(h) Any other action. A complete district survey was made. Our warfarin treatment followed routine sewer testing.				

HOUSING.

(a) *Control Measures: Housing Act, 1949.*—The control of housing conditions is assuming new patterns with the recent legislation engendering a new interest in housing standards. The primitive measures of the older Acts, whilst very necessary in securing elementary standards, are rapidly being outmoded by the encouragements of state aided improvements. In our township the complete abolition of privy middens and pail closets is nearing achievement by constant reiterations by the Council and its staff of the benefits of water borne sewerage aided by the welcome grants in aid given freely to any owner desirous of clearing out the offensive privy midden and installing the benefits of the modern flush toilet.

The purchase of private houses under the various state-aided schemes and the availability of improvement grants did not, however, run parallel with this conversion drive or the general standard of housing would have been very much higher. It is to be hoped that the Council will consider granting the much needed aid to house owners desirous of fitting their homes with baths and hot water supplies. The number of homes in this area without access to a bath, or hot water, is far too high, and many sound houses could have these civilised amenities installed by the operation of the available schemes under the present Housing Acts.

LOCAL AUTHORITY ACTION.

(b) *Slum Clearance.*—This drive to eliminate slums has been hamstrung by the restrictive financial burdens placed on Local Authorities by the provisions of the high Bank Rate legislation. The principle of subsidised housing is a widely accepted feature of our economic life and more direct aid to Local Authorities prepared to rid their areas of slums should be given. Whilst our own prospect is favourable compared with industrial areas, it still is disquieting to view these pockets of slums amid the clean and tidy streets of our towns.

A drive to eliminate the demolition of many condemned houses, some empty for scores of years, resulted in the clearing of 25 houses during the year. These were all actually demolished in addition to five further houses closed with the tenants rehoused. This was the best year we have ever had, but several sites remain with odd occupants holding up other very worthwhile clearances.

Rent Act, 1957.—This measure continues to prove the most efficacious weapon in obtaining the repair and maintenance of dwellings at reasonable standards.

If a landlord deems the house worth the enhanced rent the tenant can assume that he is prepared to keep it at a reasonable standard. The rendering of correct “G” forms by the tenant and appeal to the Local Authority is by far a more equitable method of raising housing standards than punitive means from a Public Health Inspector. Our own record shows that more work of repair is now obtained under Rent Act procedure than by any other means.

General Housing Matters.—The most necessary action to ameliorate housing conditions within the district, apart from the necessity to obtain improved hygienic facilities (baths, hot water, wash basins, etc.) is the need to utilise fully the wasted house space lying unoccupied in Council and Private houses.

The number of full family houses occupied by a single person or an elderly couple is steadily growing despite encouragement by the Council to participate in exchanges with overcrowded families. There is another aspect of this exchange scheme, which should be considered and that is the fact that the time for this exchange is when the children are young. The bulk of people only think of getting more room when the children reach the age of puberty. The time for a child to have space and freedom is in the earlier and formative years, and children under 10 should be considered as counting factors in considering space problems, not leaving the acquisition of full bedroom space, until the children are 16 or 17 years old. The need for good housing is in the early years of marriage and not a blessing which comes after a family has been reared in cramped and squalid surroundings.

1.—INSPECTIONS OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected formally or informally for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	503
(b)	No. of inspections, formal or informal for the purpose	...	...	...	...	1,721
(2)	Dwelling-houses unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit :—					
(a)	No. found during year	...	...	...	...	22
(b)	No. (or estimated number) at end of year	...	...	...	...	133

- (3) No. of dwelling-houses found during the year to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation but capable of being rendered fit ... 408

2.—CLEARANCE AREAS HOUSING ACT, 1936, AND HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENTS ACT, 1954.

- (1) No. of dwelling-houses demolished during year in Clearance Areas :—
- | | | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------------------|
| (a) Unfit houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil ¹ |
| (b) Other houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
- (2) No. of persons displaced ... Nil

3.—HOUSES NOT INCLUDED IN CLEARANCE AREAS.

- | | <i>No. of
Houses</i> | <i>Persons
Displaced</i> |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| (1) Houses demolished or closed during the year :— | | |
| (a) <i>Housing Act, 1956 :</i> | | |
| (i) Demolished as a result of formal or informal procedure (Section 11) ... | 25 | 5 |
| (ii) Closed in pursuance of an undertaking given by owners under Section 11 and still in force ... | 5 | — |
| (iii) Parts of building closed (Section 12) | Nil | Nil |
| (b) <i>Housing Act, 1949 :</i> | | |
| (i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Sections 3 (1) and 3 (2) ... | Nil | Nil |
| (c) <i>Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1953 :</i> | | |
| (i) Closed as a result of closing orders under Section 10 (1) and 11 (2) ... | Nil | Nil |
| (2) Repairs during the year :— | | <i>No. of
Houses</i> |
| (a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the period as a result of informal action by local authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts ... | | 245 |
| (b) Public Health Acts—action after service of formal notice—Houses in which defects were remedied : | | |
| (i) By owners ... | | 10 |
| (ii) By local authority in default of owners ... | | Nil |

	<i>No. of Houses</i>
(c) Housing Act, 1936—action after service of formal notice (Section 9, 10, 11 and 16) Houses made fit :	
(i) By owners	1
(ii) By local authority in default of owners	Nil
(d) Housing Repair and Rents Act, 1954 : Houses reconstructed, enlarged or improved and Demolition Orders revoked (Section 5)	Nil

4.—UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (HOUSING REPAIRS AND RENT ACT, 1954).

No action under this Act was taken in the district.

5.—HOUSING ACT, 1949 : IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, ETC.

No action was taken in the district to implement the improvement of private or publicly owned houses with public funds.

6.—RENT ACT, 1957.

Analysis of action taken by Local Authority under Repair procedure.

Part I : Applications for Certificates of Disrepair.

(1) Number of applications for certificates ...	86
(2) Number of decisions not to issue certificates	26
(3) Number of decisions to issue certificates ...	60
(a) in respect of some but not all defects...	15
(b) in respect to all defects	45
(4) Number of undertakings given by landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	27
(5) Number of undertakings refused by Local Authority under proviso to paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	3
(6) Number of Certificates issued	60

Part II : Applications for Cancellation of Certificates.

(7)	Application by landlords to Local Authority for cancellation of Certificates	4
(8)	Objections by tenants to cancellation of Certificates	2
(9)	Decisions by Local Authority to cancel in spite of tenant's objection	2
(10)	Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	4

6.—ERECTION OF NEW HOUSES.

(a)	By Local Authority	30
(b)	By other Authorities	Nil
(c)	By other bodies and persons	82

7.—PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) *Privy Middens*.—Apart from a few middens serving condemned property the bulk of privy middens have now been abolished.

(b) *The Two Karrier Bantams*.—7 cubic yard vehicles carry the whole of the town's refuse and maintain a weekly collection. These vehicles are ceasing to be an economic proposition. The high petrol consumption of 7 m.p.g. (average) and the necessity for up to 6 loads per day to the tip are pointers to the losses involved. The replacements will naturally be Diesel powered and if they are of the "self packing" variety only two trips to the tip per day will be required. It will be expected that both running and maintenance costs, especially with regard to tyres (regularly damaged on the tip face) will be lower with modern vehicles.

(c) *Bin Replacement*.—The scheme continues to operate satisfactorily at 200 bins per year, the bins being B.S.S. of 28 lbs. weight each. This low figure reflects the high standard of bins available within the district and is a credit to the enlightened attitude of both the townspeople and the Council in this most important matter of hygiene.

(d) *Tip*.—The new tip continues to provide adequate space centrally situated and is well under control. The experiment of regular attendance has resulted in a tip free from rodents,

insects and wind borne materials. The protective screens erected on the perimeter have proved a deterrent to promiscuous trespass and confine any loose paper, etc., to the tip.

Tins continue to provide a source of revenue and a means of reducing the bulk of the tip. Consolidation is good and the annual rate of use has been correspondingly reduced.

(e) *Staffing*.—Despite the rapid growth of the district the present staff maintains a weekly collection.

(f) *Salvage*.—The quota of mixed paper continues as before at 12 tons per quarter which is comfortably within our reach. At this rate the employee on baling is occasionally relieved and in wet weather the team pick up the lee-way and so maintain the output.

The building used for paper storage has now been completely renovated.

(g) *Summary of Refuse Collection*.—

		1958		1957
No. of Ashpits and Privies emptied	...	266	...	285
„ Bins emptied	... ..	126,703	...	128,934
„ Loads of Refuse removed	... ..	2,272	...	2,067

Disinfestation.—The peril from the presence of flies and vermin in and about our homes and food premises is one which is now widely appreciated and is a heartening feature of the growing public demand for higher hygiene standards. With each new insecticide or rodenticide introduced the species attacked develops a resistance and eventually does not succumb to treatment. The necessity is for regular switching of baits and poisons, great care being taken not to use such materials as will be harmful to food or the occupants of premises.

The need for prompt report of the presence of insects and rodents in food premises is vital and many traders run the unnecessary risk of prosecution by their lack of attention to the disinfestation of their premises.

The problem of the cockroach remains our chief bugbear, and no effort is spared to treat infested homes, bakehouses and food premises where this pest is suspected.

Modern insecticides and rodenticides are cheap, easy to apply and effective.

The need for more adequate protection and proofing of buildings and fittings is widely necessary.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Food Hygiene Regulations, 1955-1957.—These regulations have strengthened the powers of Local Authorities in securing higher standards of hygiene, throughout the catering industries, and thereby help in reducing the incidence of food-borne diseases.

Unless, however, the public play their part, the regulations in themselves will not achieve the standards aimed at by the Ministry.

The time devoted to inspection of food premises and discussions with food traders with a view to attaining and maintaining a high standard of hygiene in relation to their premises has been well spent, and frequent inspections carried out during the year have shown a general improvement in the handling of food and the condition of food premises.

The high cost of work and building materials have been a heavy burden on the trader, but many premises are now provided with the additional fittings required by the regulations.

The attention to details of personal hygiene by food handlers is of extreme importance in the campaign to safeguard the public from the dangers of food-borne diseases.

(2) *Sale of Food in the Open Air.*—A great deal of street trading has crept into the food industry, and a corresponding risk of contamination arises when open food is transported in this fashion.

A great deal of time is consumed in checking vehicles and methods of street traders who compete unfairly against the legitimate shop keepers whose premises are open for regular inspection.

However, the customer can help the campaign for clean food by not patronising the doubtful traders and reporting gross cases of neglect.

(3) *Ice Cream.*—Sampling of ice cream is routine and attention is paid to handling, transport and refrigerating matters by means of spot checks including temperature control.

Eight samples of ice cream were taken as sold, five proving satisfactory and three failing the Methylene Blue Test for cleanliness.

The latter cases concerned one shop where a high grade loose ice cream becomes tainted in storage and distribution. Every effort is being made to track down the source of contamination, as yet without success.

The proprietary packed variety of ice cream invariably produces a clean product and little trouble is found.

(4) *Food Condemnation*.—The following foodstuffs were surrendered and condemned during the year :.—

- 11 lbs. of Sweets and Chocolate (Storm water damage).
- 16 lbs. Frozen English Egg.
- 21 lbs. Imported Canned Ham.
- 4 lbs. Minced Pork.

(5) *Milk and Dairies*.

(a) *Milk Sampling*.—The District has now been incorporated within a specified area wherein no raw milk (unless to T.T. standards) may be sold. This is a great step forward and one under which the next generation will benefit. With the usual safeguards of regular herd testing and checks by our own public health standards the change has brought real improvement to the safety of our milk supplies.

35 samples were taken during the year with only 2 failures to attain a cleanly standard.

				No. of Samples.	Satis- factory.	Unsatis- factory.				
(a)	<i>Raw Milk :</i>									
	(1)	Tuberculosis : biological	15	...	14	...	Nil			
	(2)	Methylene Blue	...	6	...	5	...	1		
(b)	<i>Pasteurised :</i>									
	(1)	Phosphotase (for heat treatment)	3	...	3	...	Nil	
	(2)	Methylene Blue	...	9	...	8	...	1		
(c)	<i>Sterilised :</i>									
	(1)	Turbidity for heat treat- ment)	2	...	2	...	Nil

(b) *Licensing*.—The following licences were issued under the provisions of the Food and Drugs (Milk, Dairies and Artificial Cream) Act, 1950, and Regulations under the Act :—

Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.

No. of Dairies on the Register	...	...	4
No. of Milk Distributors on Register	...	...	41

Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949.

No. of Dealers' Licences issued (including supplementary licences)	10
--	-----	-----	----

Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations, 1949.

No. of Dealers' Licences issued (including supplementary licences)—Pasteurised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	11
No. of Dealers' Licences issued—Sterilised Milk	...	...	...	...	...	42

(6) *Food Premises*.—Number of food premises, by type of business, in district at the end of the year :—

<i>Type of Business</i>	<i>No.</i>
General Grocers and Provision Dealers	35
Greengrocers and Fruiterers (licensed, those selling wet fish, game, etc.)	8
<i>Type of Business</i>	<i>No.</i>
Fishmongers (including those selling poultry, game, etc.)	1
Meat Shops (butchers, purveyors of cooked and preserved meats, tripe, etc.)	12
Bakers and/or Confectioners	11
Fried Fish Shops	4
Shops selling mainly sugar, confectionery, minerals, ice-cream, etc.	14
Licensed Premises, Clubs, Canteens, Restaurants, Cafes, Snack Bars and similar establishments	25
Others	13

Number of food premises, by type, registered under section 14 of the Food and Drugs Act or under local acts :—

<i>Type of Business</i>	<i>No. Registered 31.12.58</i>	<i>No. of inspections made during the year</i>
Ice Cream—Sale and/or Storage ...	26	42
Preserved Food Premises ...	4	38
Lancs. C.C. (G.P. Act) 1938/57, Licensed Hawkers ...	8	84

Inspections.—The following number of inspections of food premises other than those referred to above were made during the year :—

Bakehouses ...	43
Cafes, Restaurants and Canteens ...	63
Grocers' Shops ...	61
Greengrocers ...	31
Butchers' Shops ...	24
Fish Frying Premises and preserved foods ...	38
Miscellaneous ...	18
Vehicles ...	31
Confectioners ...	26
Dairies ...	108
Notices served ...	83

Meat.—One slaughterhouse is licensed within the district, but very little slaughtering takes place. Butchers purchase supplies from Wigan or Stanley Abattoirs.

Regular inspection of all butchers' shops and of the meat found in the shops has been maintained throughout the year.

Attention is paid to the condition of delivery vehicles which in some cases calls for improvement. There is no real reason why carcasses and offal should not be carried in a cool cleanly condition as rapid deterioration of meat and meat products can take place in humid weather under the present transport conditions.

Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-54.—18 pigs were slaughtered within the district, and 1 case of tuberculosis was detected in this connection.

10.—PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Scarlet Fever.—There were four cases of Scarlet Fever during the year. They were not associated.

Diphtheria.—No cases of Diphtheria were notified maintaining the clear record of the district over the past eleven years.

The following statistics relate to the year 1958, and show the number of children resident in Orrell who were immunised and vaccinated.

<i>Type</i>	<i>Pre-School Children.</i>	<i>School Children.</i>
Triple Antigen (Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus) ...	149	11
Diphtheria Re-inforcing Injections...	1	50
Poliomyelitis : Primary ...	242	708
Re-inforcing ...	13	42
Smallpox Vaccinations ...	108	2

Pneumonia.—There were two cases of acute primary pneumonia.

Measles.—One hundred and eighty-three cases of this disease were notified.

Poliomyelitis.—No cases of poliomyelitis occurred in the district during the year.

Whooping Cough.—No cases of Whooping Cough were notified.

Cancer.—There were twenty-nine deaths attributable to Cancer.

Facilities for Radium Treatment for Orrell residents is available at the Radium Institute, Manchester, and at the Wigan Infirmary, which, for this purpose, is a sub-clinic of the Manchester centre.

Food Poisoning.—No cases were reported during the year.

Dysentery.—Three cases of sonnei dysentery were notified and fully investigated.

Tuberculosis.—Six new cases of respiratory tuberculosis and one child aged 1½ years affected with non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year. No deaths were attributable to the disease. Treatment is the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board, and Orrell cases attend the Chest Clinic, Millgate, Wigan.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING 1958.

Notifiable Diseases	Total cases at all ages	Age Periods Years								65 and over	Total deaths	Outward hospital transfer	Inward death transfer
		—1	—2	—3	—5	—10	—15	—25	—45				
	(a)										(b)	(c)	(d)
Tuberculosis ...	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	—			
Scarlet Fever ...	4	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	—	—			
Whooping Cough ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—			
Measles ...	183	5	10	26	46	93	3	—	—	—			
Dysentery ...	3	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—			
Pneumonia ...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—			
Erysipelas ...	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1			
Totals ...	201	5	12	27	51	93	3	7	2	1			

